

Attorney Docket No. LANG-30273
Application No. 10/734,409
Amendment and Response

In the Specification

Please replace paragraphs 0002 and 0042 with the following replacement paragraphs, which have been marked to show all changes.

[0002] One of the most common types of sports-related injuries is a result of an undesired lateral movement in a foot/ankle (e.g., an inversion or eversion movement – that is, a turning in of the ankle – inversion – and a ~~turning~~ turning out of an ankle – eversion). According to studies, ankle injuries account for 20% to 40% of all sports-related injuries. With such a common occurrence of injuries in ankles, individuals have turned to various foot and/or ankle supports.

[0042] **FIGURE 2** shows a configuration of the support system 100 with the cover 130 removed. As described above, some aspects of the invention may not include a cover 130 and can, for example, include only the component parts shown in Figure 2. In such configurations, the component part of Figure 2 can either serve as component parts of a shoe or as the shoe, themselves – e.g., the upper 170 could serve as the outermost coating of the shoe. In Figure 2, the upper 170 has been ghosted to show several component parts of this aspect of the support system 100, namely a sole inliner 120, a coupling 140, a back inliner 160. Generally, the upper 170, the sole inliner 120, the back inliner 160, and the coupling 140 work together to facilitate a dorsiflexion and plantar flexion movement in a foot, while resisting a lateral movement of a foot. In aspects incorporating the cover 130 (Figure 1), the cover 130 can additionally help to facilitate/resist these movements. With a description of resistance to lateral movement of a foot, it should be understood that this resistance is not necessarily an absolute resistance – that is, a resistance that allows no movement. Some lateral movement may occur in the foot – e.g., lateral movement that is part of natural movement of a foot in a particular activity. Thus, the resistance to lateral movement of a foot, as described herein, is a resistance to a lateral movement of a foot that is beyond that desired in a particular activity. For example, in some activities the undesired lateral movement may be lateral movement that ~~eases~~ causes injuries. In yet other activities, the undesirable lateral

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movement can be a lateral movement that detracts from a desired form that enhances performances. Ultimately, the degree to which lateral movement is minimized/resisted will depend on the dynamics of the activity in which the support system 100 is being utilized.